

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 are independent claims. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 are amended. No new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 9, as well as the remaining pending claims are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 – *Morel et al.*

Claims 1-8 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,248,971 ("*Morel et al.*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Morel fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Morel fails to disclose an arrangement, comprising a guide frame insertable into a switch gear cell; a switching gas damper attached to the guide frame, the switching gas damper including a bearing element having at least one inlet opening formed in the bearing element for receiving switching gases and at least one accommodating area for a flow element disposed in the accommodating area, the flow element adapted to buildup flow resistance of the switching gases; at least one closure element that forms an outlet for damping ionizing the switching gases, fixed to the bearing element over the at least one accommodating area; and a separate low voltage power circuit breaker having an arc-quenching chamber, the separate low voltage power circuit breaker insertable beneath the switching gas damper of the guide frame.

Morel relates to a circuit breaker having at least one phase formed by several poles mounted in parallel (column 1, lines 5-6). In Morel, a six-pole circuit breaker 10 includes an insulating case formed by an assembly of a rear base 12, an intermediate frame 14 open at the front and rear, and a front panel 16. The front panel confines a rear compartment and a front compartment on each side of a front partition 18 of the intermediate frame 14. The rear compartment is subdivided into elementary compartments that house a pole of the circuit breaker. Each pole comprises a separable contact device and an arc extinguishing chamber 26 (column 4, lines 43-58). The structure of the arc extinguishing chamber 26, that comprises part

of the circuit breaker 10, includes a composite external wall 56, a series of filters 58 disposed in the composite external wall 56 and a plurality of deionization plates 50 mounted beneath the composite wall 56 (See Fig. 3; column 5, lines 17-30).

It is alleged in the Office Action that the arc extinguishing chamber 26 of the circuit breaker 10 corresponds to the arc quenching chamber recited in the rejected claims and that the composite external wall 56, of the arc extinguishing chamber 26, corresponds to the claimed switching gas damper. However, as clearly described in Morel and shown in Fig. 3, the composite wall 56 is part of the circuit breaker 10 and not part of the switching gas damper as recited in the rejected claims. It is further alleged that the composite external wall 56 is arranged above the arc extinguishing chamber 26. However, as the composite external wall 56 comprises a component of the arc extinguishing chamber 26, it is impossible for the composite external wall to be arranged above itself.

Further, as recited in the amended claims, the switching gas damper is attached to a guide frame that is insertable into a switch gear cell. However, the alleged guide frame in Morel (the intermediate frame 14 of the circuit breaker 10) does not correspond to a guide frame that is insertable into a switch gear cell. Rather, as described in Morel, the intermediate frame 14 is a component of a six-pole circuit breaker that is sandwiched between a rear base 12 and a front panel 16. Thus, the intermediate frame 14 of the circuit breaker 10 cannot correspond to a guide frame that is insertable into a switch gear cell.

Additionally, as recited in the amended claims, the low voltage power circuit breaker is a separate component in the arrangement and is insertable into the guide frame beneath the switching gas damper that is attached to the guide frame. In contrast, Morel discloses that the arc extinguishing chamber is actually a component of the circuit breaker and that the alleged switching gas damper (i.e., the composite external wall 56) is also a component of the circuit breaker 10. However, as recited in the rejected claims, the switching gas damper is attached to the guide frame and the low voltage circuit breaker is a separate element. Accordingly, Morel fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection of claims 1-8 and 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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